

IN THE CLAIMS

1-13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A sintered silicon carbide body having a porosity of 2 to 12 vol.%, wherein the porosity comprises unconnected, closed pores, which are uniformly distributed in the material of the bodies, wherein the pores are spherical, wherein the pores have a nominal diameter of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to 48  $\mu\text{m}$  and ~~that~~ wherein the diameter of the particles of the pore-forming agent for the production of the pores is in the range of 18  $\mu\text{m}$  to 57  $\mu\text{m}$  before ~~the~~ compaction of a green body to form the silicon carbide body.

15. (previously presented) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 14, wherein the pores have a nominal diameter of 15  $\mu\text{m}$  to 45  $\mu\text{m}$ .

16. (currently amended) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 14, wherein ~~the inorganic component~~ of the material of the bodies comprises an inorganic component comprising ~~contains~~ 80% to 98% silicon carbide, 0.5% to 5% carbon, 0.3% to 5% boron and 0% to 20% of a hard material selected from the group consisting of a boride and a silicide.

17. (currently amended) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 14, wherein ~~the inorganic component~~ of the material of the bodies comprises an inorganic component contains 85% to 98% silicon carbide, 1.5% to 4% carbon, 0.5% to 2% boron and 0% to 12% of a hard material.

18. (previously presented) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 14, wherein the silicon carbide is alpha-silicon carbide.

19. (currently amended) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 14, wherein the pore forming agent is a burnout material ~~materials, such as polymers, waxes, starches or cellulose, are used as pore-forming agents.~~

20. (previously presented) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 19, wherein polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) is used as pore-forming agent.

21. (previously presented) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 20, wherein the pore-forming agent is added in a quantity of 0.70 to 5.40 wt.%.

22. (previously presented) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 14, wherein the proportion of particles of the pore-forming agent with nominal diameters of between 30  $\mu\text{m}$  and 45  $\mu\text{m}$  is 80% of the total quantity.

26. (new) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 14, wherein the pore forming agent is selected from the group consisting of a polymer, a wax, a starch and a cellulose.

27. (new) A sintered silicon carbide body having a porosity of 2 to 12 vol.%, wherein the porosity comprises unconnected, closed pores, which are uniformly distributed in the material of the bodies, wherein the pores are spherical, wherein the pores have a nominal diameter of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to 48  $\mu\text{m}$ .